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Watson, D. K. *The Constitution of the United States.* Two vols. Pp. xlvi, 1,959. Price, \$12.00. Chicago: Callaghan Company, 1910.

In one way this comprehensive two-volume work will be found a decided improvement over the usual treatise on constitutional law. In the discussion of the various clauses of our fundamental law, the historical bases, so far as they appear in the proceedings of the convention, are reviewed. This gives a much better background for judging the intent of the framers of the constitution than is possible when only the words of the clauses and the logic of the thought and arrangement are considered. The value of this method can hardly be over-emphasized. It has not, however, been fully appreciated by Mr. Watson. There are few historical references to the period before the constitutional convention itself. The use of the contemporary discussions of the meaning of the constitution which appeared at the time of the adoption of the constitution and in the formative period following is restricted. Failure to give a picture of the constitution as it appeared to the generation which adopted it can hardly be justified in a book which aims to cover, as does this, the "history, application and construction" of the document.

There is a failure also to outline the historical growth of the constitution since its adoption, by which it has become in fact if not in form a scheme of government which in many respects would hardly be recognized by the fathers. The history of the constitution, in a word, cannot be confined to the period of the convention, it goes back far before the Revolution and it did not stop with the adoption of the constitution or with its amendments.

History of the constitution should also include more than judicial decisions. In the discussion of the taxing power, it hardly seems that the facts concerning the Civil War income tax and the argument supporting it should be overlooked. It is not true that representatives to congress have never been elected by territory which has not been given the status of "territory" in the popular sense of that term. The omission of consideration of the "new problems relating to constitutional government (which) are demanding consideration" confines the discussion of the insular cases to a little over five pages. Limitations similar to these are met throughout the volumes.

In arrangement the order given in the constitution is followed. The result especially in the discussion of the amendments is repetition, and to one who fails to bring together the discussion of the parts of the constitution which are connected in thought, confusion.

In spite of these defects, which refer to the arrangement and choice of materials, Mr. Watson's work is valuable. The discussion is scholarly and the historical material within the limitations mentioned is well used. There is a well selected table of cases and a fair index.

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Weale, B. L. P. *The Conflict of Color.* Pp. ix, 341. Price, \$2.00. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

This new volume by the author of "The Reshaping of the Far East" might